

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a ~~sheet presenting~~filter having calibrated through pores, the method comprising the following operations:

A) ~~preparing~~using a continuous sheet having thickness of 5  $\mu\text{m}$  to a few tens of micrometers, suitable for being etched by a lithographic operation;

B) making a mask on a face of the sheet, the mask presenting etching selectivity S of at least 5, where etching selectivity S is defined as the ratio of the speed VF at which the material of the sheet is etched to the speed VM at which the material of the mask is etched;

C) depositing a layer of photosensitive resin on the mask;

D) making through holes in the layer of resin by photolithography, matching the configuration of pores to be made;

E) etching through the mask via the pores in the layer of resin; and

F) anisotropically etching through the sheet from the pores in the mask in order to make through pores in the sheet having an aspect ratio greater than 5, where aspect ratio is defined as the ratio of the depth of the pores to their diameter,

the above-mentioned operations being performed in succession during sequential travel of the sheet.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~and~~ which includes after step F), cutting-up of the sheet up into individual membranes.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, in which a sheet is used made of metal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, in which pores are made in the layer of resin by transferring an image of the configuration of the pores by interference.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, in which said resin also constitutes the mask.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, in which at least one of the etching operations is performed in a plasma.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, the method including an operation of rolling the sheet or a membrane cut out from the sheet into a cylinder and bonding together its edges.

9-12 (Cancelled)

13. (New) A method according to any one of claims 1-6 and 8, in which the through pores made in the sheet have a diameter lying in the range on one-tenth of a micrometer or less to several tens of micrometers.